GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:104
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2015
Spritual/Religious Tourism
Dwivedi Shri Harish;Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop and beautify 'Spiritual/Religious Tourism' at holy places in the country including Ayodhya and Chitrakoot, under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive scheme;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the details of religious sites identified for development under the aegis of the scheme, State/UT-wise including religious places of Uttar Pradesh;
(c) whether the Government has sanctioned funds for the promotion of religious tourism during the last three years and the current year; and
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.+*104 ANSWERED ON 07.12.2015 REGARDING SPIRITUAL/RELIGIOUS TOURISM.
(a) to (d): Ministry of Tourism has launched a new Plan Scheme 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD) in the year 2014-15 for development and beautification of pilgrimage sites of the country.

State-wise list of 13 pilgrimage sites so far identified for development and beautification under the scheme is given below:
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Sl. No. Name of the Site Name of the State
1. Amaravati Andhra Pradesh
2. Kamakhya Assam
3. Gaya Bihar
4. Patna -do-
5. Dwarka Gujarat
6. Puri Odisha
7. Amritsar Punjab
8. Ajmer Rajasthan
9. Kanchipuram Tamil Nadu
10. Vellankanni -do-
11. Kedarnath Uttarakhand
12. Mathura Uttar Pradesh
13. Varanasi -do-
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Ministry of Tourism has launched another Plan Scheme "Swadesh Darshan" in 2014-15 for integrated development of theme based circuits. Under Swadesh Darshan twelve thematic circuits have been identified, including four religious/spiritual thematic circuits i.e. Buddhist Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit.

Details of funds sanctioned for development and promotion of tourism including religious tourism by the Ministry in the last three years is given at Annexure I. Details of funds sanctioned under PRASAD Scheme and Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15 and 2015-16 (as on 02.12.2015) are given at Annexures II and III respectively.
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